

NATI NEWSWIRE

SENIOR SAFETY ISSUES

A Focus on Resources for the Older Adult Credit Reporting Agencies

If you think you are a victim of identity theft, it is suggested you contact all three of these Credit Reporting Services.

Equifax
800-525-6285

Experian
888-397-3742

Trans Union
800-680-7289

Directory of Crime Victim Services

A resource providing non-emergency crime victim services.

<http://ovc.ncjrs.org/findvictimservices/default.html>

800-851-3420

Identity Theft Resource Center

Learn to prevent and recover from identity theft.

www.idtheftcenter.org/index.shtml

858-693-7935

Social Security Administration Fraud Line

Call this number if you think you are a victim of Social Security fraud.

www.ssa.gov/oig/hotline/index.htm

800-269-0271

Legal Resources for Older Adults

American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging

The mission of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging is to strengthen and secure the legal rights, dignity, autonomy, quality of life, and quality of care of elders.

www.abanet.org/aging

202- 662-8690

Dawson County Sheriff's Department Offers Senior Citizen Contact List

The Dawson County Sheriff's Department is initializing a method in which to assist Senior Citizens in Dawson County should the need arise. Sgt. Tony Wooten with the Dawson County Sheriff's office states, "The main purpose for this list is for information such as emergency contacts, medical conditions and current medications to be readily available if emergency services are needed at the home of a senior citizen in Dawson County."

A form for emergency personnel has been devised and once completed is asked to be placed in a visible location on the refrigerator. "By placing the list on the refrigerator, emergency personnel will know where to look for this list immediately upon entrance to the home," Wooten continues. The list will also be used in contacting senior citizens during emergency situations or inclement weather conditions to ensure that no assistance is needed.

"It is very comforting to know that senior citizens in Dawson County will have someone checking on them in emergency events as well as inclement weather conditions," commented Rachelle Thurmond, Coordinator of the Dawson County Senior Center. "I applaud Sgt. Wooten and the Dawson County Sheriff's Department for implementing this plan."

The forms are available at the Sheriff's office and the Dawson County Senior Center. For more information, please visit the Dawson County Sheriff's website at www.dawsoncountysheriff.org or contact Sgt. Tony Wooten at 706-344-3535. You may also contact Rachelle Thurmond at the Dawson County Senior Center at 706-344-3700. A form can be mailed to you and assistance can be provided to complete the form, if needed.

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South Carolina Bill to protect senior citizens expected to become law

By Kelly Gillespie SC

A new bill that stems from the death of a Florence senior citizen has been introduced to the S.C. House of Representatives to help protect the elderly.

Geraldine "Jerry" Scott, 75, was killed in her Maple Park home June 1.

Since then, Rep. Kris Crawford of Florence has been working to get the bill to help protect senior citizens — called Jerry's Law — passed this legislative session. The bill's concept was developed by Maple Park Neighborhood Association members who were outraged by Scott's death.

"It's one of those things — it was a bad thing that brought it about, and it doesn't say something good about our society, really, that we have to do this at all," Crawford said. "I'm always very sad to file these bills that are inspired by horrible events."

Crawford personally filed the bill for Jerry's Law, modeled after Jessica's Law, which requires mandatory sentencing for anyone who commits a crime against a child. Jerry's Law would stiffen the penalties against those who kill a vulnerable adult, defined by Crawford as someone 62 or older.

Although state laws are relatively strict, Crawford has said there are some loopholes that allow offenders who prey on the old and the young to avoid the stiffest penalties. Most of the gaps that permit this have been closed in matters relating to violent crimes against children, but have not been addressed with crimes involving people of advanced age.

"It's a reasonable step to take, so I think we have a good chance of getting it to the governor's desk this year," Crawford said.

Gov. Mark Sanford said he thinks the bill has a good chance of becoming law this year.

"This idea of saying, wait a minute, if you prey on people who are particularly vulnerable in our society, there's going to be a more significant consequence ... (It's) something that makes common sense," Sanford said.

Crawford said Jerry's Law is expected to have hearings within the next 30 days, and it could pass out of the House floor in 90 days.

Darlington Police Department officers, who are investigating a case of elder abuse, also said they support Jerry's Law.

Officers arrested two Darlington men Sunday who are accused of neglecting two older live-in relatives — one to the brink of death, Darlington Police Capt. Danny Watson said.

Timothy Sims, 47, and Les Williams, 53, both of 402 Second St., each face two counts of abuse of a vulnerable adult, Watson said.

EMS personnel, who were contacted by one of the suspects, responded to the home and found an 84-year-old woman and a 62-year-old woman in serious condition. Police said the men did not feed the two women for as many as 30 days.

The two women are mother and daughter, while Williams is a son and grandson of the victims, respectively. Sims is a nephew and grandnephew to the women, Watson said.

Both women were taken to a local hospital. Police said the 84-year-old victim has been taken back to the hospital since she was released Monday, and police said the 62-year-old victim is in such a severe state of malnourishment she's been hospitalized all week. If either woman dies, the charges against the two suspects will be upgraded, Watson said. The current charges they face are punishable by as many as 15 years in jail for each count.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH IS MAY, 2008.

**OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
2008 MATERIALS ARE NOW
AVAILABLE ON THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING WEBSITE. TO
DOWNLOAD MATERIALS PLEASE
VISIT :**

**HTTP://WWW.AOA.GOV/PRESS
/OAM/OAM.ASP**

Website of the Month

Mandatory Bank Reporting Training

Missourians Stopping Adult Financial Exploitation (MOSAFE)

The MOSAFE training materials on this page will help you and bank and credit union employees spot the warning signs of financial exploitation, and take steps to stop it. The materials include a [video](#), [brochure](#), [PowerPoint presentation](#), [resource manual](#) and [eight articles](#), which can be viewed and/or downloaded from this site. We thank the many private and public agencies that have joined and supported this educational effort.

Financial exploitation occurs when someone illegally uses or takes a vulnerable adult's money or property for his or her own profit or gain. For more information on MOSAFE, please call the Department of Health and Senior Services' toll-free Information and Referral line, 1-800-235-5503.

The following link will direct you to the MOSAFE page of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services site.

<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/MOSAFE/index.html>

The ***BITS Fraud Protection Toolkit: Protecting the Elderly and Vulnerable from Financial Fraud and Exploitation***, which can be downloaded at:

<http://www.bitsinfo.org/downloads/Publications%20Page/bitstoolfeb06.pdf>.

BITS is a roundtable of the nation's 100 largest financial institutions. The toolkit was developed by Joe Snyder, of Phila. APS and NAPSA, with the close help and support of Wachovia Bank, in particular Linda Mill.

More Senior Safety related articles are located at www.nationaltriad.org; e-news section

Want to Know About Stopping Scams of Older Adults?

FBI Senior Fraud Page

The FBI provides tips on how you can protect you and your family from fraud, with an emphasis on senior scams.

www.fbi.gov/majcases/fraud/seniorsfam.htm
202-324-3000

Fraudaid

Learn about fraud from the voice of personal experience.
Gives fraud victims a chance to be heard and to educate.

www.fraudaid.com
562- 436-1076

National Center on Elder Abuse

The National Center on Elder Abuse promotes understanding, knowledge sharing, and action on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

www.elderabusecenter.org
202- 898-2586

National Fraud Information Center

A service of the National Consumers League, this site informs seniors on how to prevent fraud, what to look out for and where to go if you have become a victim.

www.fraud.com
800-876-7060

Quatloos

Find information on a wide variety of financial scams and frauds.

www.quatloos.com

SeniorCitizens.com

This site has comprehensive information and resources for senior citizens, including education and tips on how to prevent different types of fraud and scams.

www.seniorcitizens.com/scams

US Boomers

Helps educate the boomer generation about elderly fraud, with examples of what to look for in order to protect you and your loved ones.

www.usboomers.com/fraud.htm

<http://www.stopseniorscams.org>

Suspect Arrested for Recent Series of Violent Robberies

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN ONLINE

By KELLY FITZPATRICK

A man suspected of robbing and beating several elderly people was arrested Jan. 29 and taken into custody by the Berkeley Police Department. Jahton Green, a 21-year-old Oakland resident, is believed to be responsible for eight violent attacks on senior citizens over a period of three months, said Berkeley police Sgt. Mary Kusmiss.

Green was charged last week with two counts of second-degree robbery with great bodily injury, grand theft and possession of stolen property. He is currently being held at Santa Rita County Jail without bail.

The attacks began on November 17, 2007, when Green stole an 82-year-old woman's purse and knocked her to the ground, fracturing her hip. In the most recent incident, Green brutally beat a 93-year-old Berkeley man, forced himself into the man's condominium and stole his wallet, credit cards and \$320 in cash. "There were serious injuries in all of the cases," Kusmiss said. "The possibility of death was certainly there."

According to Kusmiss, detectives are confident that Green is responsible for all eight attacks, but thus far he has only been charged in connection with four incidents. In the most serious cases, the victims suffered serious or permanent injury, requiring hospitalization and surgery. Police were able to track Green down at an acquaintance's Berkeley residence by following a trail of stolen credit cards and checks from the victims. The brutality of the robberies has moved community members to increase awareness of elder abuse. Richie Smith, a member of Berkeley's Commission On Aging, said the attacks motivated the commission to spread safety information for elders. "We're trying to invite a police officer to speak at our meetings so that we can inform seniors on how they can protect themselves," Smith said.

Heidi Li, director of the Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Institute on Aging in San Francisco, said the incidents serve as a precautionary example. "(The attacks) really do exemplify that elders are particularly vulnerable to this type of crime," she said. Kusmiss said crime against elders is best prevented when people look out for one another. "If you have older neighbors or relatives, you should get familiar with them," she said. "It's part of communities taking care of each other."

1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
800-424-7827 phone 703-519-8567 fax
triad@sheriffs.org www.nationaltriad.org



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